

-2-

An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment and Request For Continued Examination.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claim(s) 1, 5, 9, 13, 16 and 20. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

-
- B1
1. (Twice Amended) An electronic handheld processing device comprising:
a memory storing demographic information, patient diagnosis information and billing information;
an interface to enable physicians to input billing and diagnosis information;
an interface to intermittently communicate with an interface device for downloading billing and diagnosis information and receiving updated patient demographic information; and
an interface to flag to physicians changes in guidelines associated with billing codes.
-
- B2
5. (Twice Amended) The electronic handheld processing device of claim 1, wherein the changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.
-
- SUB C27
- B3
9. (Twice Amended) A method for automating the billing process for physicians using an electronic handheld processing device the method comprising:
displaying patient demographic information on a screen of the handheld processing device;
displaying billing information on the screen of the handheld processing device;

-3-

selecting the required patient and billing information once a patient has been examined;

flagging to physicians changes in guidelines associated with billing codes; and
intermittently outputting billing code data to an interface device for distributing the billing code data to information systems for further processing to generate medical bills.

B3
SUB D4
B4
13. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.

SUB C3
B5
16. (Twice Amended) A method in a computer system for automating a physicians billing process, comprising, with a handheld device:
displaying a list of patients to be seen on a particular day;
displaying a list of patient locations;
displaying billing codes;
flagging to physicians changes in guidelines associated with billing codes;
receiving billing code selection corresponding to a patient examined by a physician;
creating a new billing record for the patient;
from an interface device, intermittently sending billing codes for the patient to an information processing system to generate a medical bill.

SUB D4
B6
20. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.